The Poll Tax

Native fascists shriek about the "Hidden Government". To them this is the Jew-capitalist and the Jew-communist, bot the same to them. However, there is a real "hidden government" in the United States.

It consists of a clique of unreconciled rebels elected from the nine poll-tax States, who have obtained the chairmenships of all major Congressional committee or can bring sufficient pressure to bear on the few ex ceptions to exert real control. Thus a handful of reactionaries can and do throttle the functioning of democracy. Most of these guys are elected by a total vote so small that it would constitute a slim majority in a northern election. Dies, for example, was elected by a vote of about 5% of the citizens over 21 in his district.

The latest Congressional directory shows that the chairmen of 28 House committees come from below the Mason-Dixon line. Of the 14 members of the Ho use Rules committee, the com ittee through which every House action much flow and which can block any House action, 8 are from the South. Such ax-men as Eugene Cox, Howard Smith, Martin Dies and Bayard Clark, among these eight, can force the fairly liberal chairman of this com ittee to do whatever they desire.,They not only can, they do.

I think a brief analysis of what the poll-tax congressmen do and have done, a comparison of their power with the votes by which they were elected, and a recounting of the means employed by their machines to keep almost all Negros and most"poor whites" from voting even when they can pay the poll-tax, might make a good story. Without publicity the Department of Justice has conducted a few such investigations, particularly

in Miami, Fla. (where there is no poll tax), where the KKK, in broad daylight, threatened Negros who attempted to vote with lynching. I believe that some material might be obtained from the Department on this.

The bill to repeal the poll-tax languishes before the House Judiciary committee, of which Hatton Sumners, of Texas, is chairman.

Congressman Dickstein yesterday informed the House that the new Imperial Wizard of the KKK, Horse Doctor Colescott, claims the Klan members in the House of Representatives runs for 10% to 75% of State delegations! Colescott was in town lobbying for Klan-approved legislation, such as a $1,000,000 appropriation for the Dies committee. He actually confered with Congressmen at the Capital!